

BLACK SEA OIL TANKER FLEET.

I. The total USSR oil tanker fleet amounts to about 350,000 tons. The Black Sea fleet represents only 32 percent of this total, whereas 65 percent of the oil tankers operate in the Caspian Sea.

However, the Black Sea fleet, together with some White Sea and Far East units, handles 93 percent of the long distance transports of combustible liquids.

II. The Black Sea oil tanker fleet consists of 20 - 25 units with a total gross tonnage of 115,000 - 120,000<sup>register</sup>/tons and a capacity of 155,000 - 160,000 tons (for semi-crude products).

Over half of these vessels are of relatively new construction, with a gross tonnage of 6,000<sup>register</sup>/tons or (at the larger type) 8,000 tons. They were constructed in 1930 - 32 and are equipped with Diesel engines. Almost all are of Russian construction (Nikolayev shipyards).

The remaining units are older, some of pre-revolutionary construction. Their gross tonnage varies from 600 to 4,900<sup>register</sup>/tons, most of them have Diesel engines and a capacity of from 950 to 7,000 tons.

## Specifications of certain oil tankers:

a) "Azerbaydzhan": launched in 1932 at the A. Marti shipyard in twin Diesel engines, twin screws, gross tonnage 6,114<sup>register</sup>/tons, capacity 9,800 tons of mazut.

Length 125 m, width 16.7 m, draught 8.7 m, speed 12 knots.

b) "Kreml' ": launched in 1932 at the A. Marti shipyards, twin Diesel engines, twin screws, gross tonnage 7,661<sup>register</sup>/tons, capacity 10,600 tons of mazut.

Length 136 m, width 17.1 m, draught 7.9m, speed 11 knots.

c) "Iosif Stalin": flagship (?) of the Black Sea oil tankers, constructed in the A. Marti shipyards in 1932, twin Diesel

SECRET

**SECRET**

engines, twin screws, gross tonnage 7,745<sup>register</sup>/tons, capacity  
10,900 tons.

Length 136 m, width 17.1 m, draught 7.9 m, speed 11 knots.

III. The Black Sea oil tankers are combined in the "Sovtanker" company. The company is under the management of Ivan Georgiyevich Sirish, who is opposed to the regime but is retained for his capabilities. The main base of the oil tankers is Tuapse.

Due to the efforts of Sirish, the Black Sea fleet does not only handle oil transport in this sea but <sup>also</sup> undertakes long distance operations. Thus, the "Iosif Stalin" undertook a whaling trip to the Antarctic in 1948 and the "Kronl" made a non-stop trip from Tuapse to the Far East towards the end of 1947.

IV. Repairs (<sup>minor and major</sup> ~~running-and-repairing~~) are the weak point of the oil tanker fleet. The maritime shipyards have not yet been able to recover their pre-war production level.

It has been attempted to bridge the inadequacy of the shipyards by making repairs with means available aboard ship. But this method only retarded and increased the need for major repairs.

V. According to present day information, there exists no Baltic Sea oil tanker fleet. There may be certain vessels equipped for transportation of combustible liquids but they are of minor importance. The oil tankers of the Black Sea and of the inland waterways are the ones which actually supply the Baltic fleet.

**SECRET**